California GARDEN

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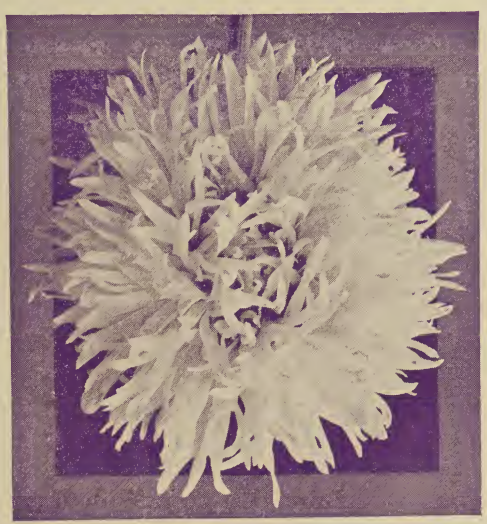

Shasta Daisy, Grant Double White

APRIL
1936

Acacia in LaJolla

By T. Wayland Vaughan

New Double Nasturtium

By Walter Birch, Jr.

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Activities

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CONTENTS FOR APRIL

THE NEW SUPER DOUBLE NASTURTIUM
By Walter Birch, Jr.

ACTIVITIES OF FLORAL ASSOCIATIONS AND GARDEN CLUBS

SPRING IS HERE
By Silas Osborn

ACACIA GROWING IN LA JOLLA
By T. Wayland Vaughan

PLANTING AND GROWING OF DAHLIA TUBERS
By H. Lodge

MY GARDEN
By K. O. Sessions

Acacia Growing in LaJolla . . .

By T. WAYLAND VAUGHAN

. . . *Species Worthy of Mention*

There are on the grounds of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, in addition to those listed in Mr. Jerabek's article of March, the following Acacias:

A. Armata
A. Baileyana
A. Cardiophylla
A. Decurrens
A. Farnesiana
A. Longifolia
A. Linifolia var. prominens
A. Monuttiana
A. Pycnantha
A. Retinoides var. floribunda
A. Salicina
A. Verticillata
A. Viscidula

In addition to the species of Acacia listed in the March number of California Garden and the species herewith listed, I had planted on the grounds of the Institution ten or a dozen other species, but the plants were destroyed either by gophers or other enemies.

There are many interesting species of plants on the grounds of the Institution. Shortly after I came to it one of my botanist friends in Australia, Mr. R. H. Cambage, sent me the seeds of about one hundred species of Australian trees and shrubs which he thought might be experimented with on the coastal lands of California. The members of the Division of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction of the U. S. Department of Agriculture also became interested and sent me probably as many more species of seeds or young plants. Furthermore, I have got many species from local nurseries, both in San Diego and Los Angeles. I scarcely need mention that Miss K. O. Sessions has been very helpful in trying to add to the number of plants on the Institution's grounds. Several years ago I was asked to write for California Garden an account of the experiments that we had made with plants at the Scripps Institution, but my other duties have made it impracticable for me to comply with the request which I considered a very high compliment.

I wish to call your attention to an error in the March issue of California Garden which has just reached my desk. In the "List of Acacias Growing in San Diego," by Mr. C. I. Jerabek, the name of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography is incorrectly given as the Scripps Biological Station. There is no Scripps Biological Station. Between 1912 and 1925 the name of the Institution was "The Scripps Institution for Biological Research." Before I came to the Scripps Institution it had been decided by the administrative authorities of the University of California and by interested members of the Scripps family, to convert the institution from one for biological research into one for oceanographic research. The name, accordingly, on October 13, 1925, was changed by the Regents of the University of California to Scripps Institution of Oceanography. The Institution is one of three oceanographic institutions in the United States, and as an institution of oceanography it has a world-wide reputation. Although I have tried to make the members of our community in San Diego and La Jolla acquainted with both the name of the institution and its scientific functions I have had only partial success.

(The Editor requests that both you and Mr. Jerabek accept the apology for this error).

The New Super Double Nasturtium

By WALTER BIRCH, JR.

The only way that you can be absolutely sure that these are really Nasturtiums is by the foliage which is the old fashioned kind. The blooms remind one somewhat of an extra large Geum, coming in just the two colors, so far, the Golden Giant and the Scarlet Giant. This new Flower has been Patented and is being introduced by Burpee of Philadelphia. However, one may obtain plants here in San Diego County. This New Nasturtium does not produce a seed, being propagated from the cuttings only. The cuttings root very readily so that one may start with just a few plants and by rooting a few cuttings soon have enough plants to make quite a sizeable bed. These plants surely do produce great quantities of flowers, which have good long, strong stems and keep for a number of days as a cut flower.

These Super Double Nasturtiums are apparently just as easy to grow as the ordinary varieties, except that they do not produce a seed. When setting out the plants, place them deep enough for the soil to cover about two inches of the stem, and press the soil down firmly around the roots. If planted in a soil too rich in nitrogen, nasturtiums will produce abundant foliage, but very few flowers. Manure is not recommended for soil in which Nasturtiums are to be grown. If you feel your garden soil is not rich enough, add a little commercial fertilizer, or better still an application of Bone Meal spread over the ground at the rate of a quarter pound to the square yard, and well worked in before planting will make the plants produce quantities of blooms. Bone Meal contains the elements that produce the blooms on plants. Do not give them too much water, excess moisture will produce much the same results as too much nitrogen in the soil, that is an excess of foliage and very few flowers. Nasturtiums will do much better if planted in a fairly cool location.

When not killed by frost, individual Nasturtium plants will often live for a year or more. New growth is continually being put out from the base of the plant so when the old top growth becomes yellow from age or for any reason has an unhealthy appearance, it should be pruned back to give new growth an opportunity to develop. Nasturtiums can be freely pruned at any time without danger to the plant.

Nasturtiums are not bothered much by plant pests, except the Black Aphis, which can be controlled by an application of Evergreen or Black Leaf 40, sometimes it is necessary to repeat this application every other day for a few days.

GREETINGS!! NEW MEMBERS

The San Diego Floral Association wishes to extend their best wishes to the following new members:

Claude Rodd, San Diego.

Newhall School, Newhall, California.

Miss Emily Clayton, San Diego.

Mrs. Chas. B. Wise, Los Angeles.

Mrs. George R. Welty, San Diego.

Arturo Rios, Los Angeles.

Fannie E. Cheatham, San Diego.

Miss Alma Marks, San Diego.

Miss Lela Marks, San Diego.

Mrs. Geo. Spurbeck, San Diego.

Grace Osborn, Chula Vista.

Alice A. Williams, Claremont.

Pasadena Public Library, Pasadena.

Mrs. P. W. Harmon, San Diego.

Mrs. J. C. Hadsell, San Diego.

Mrs. Andrew C. Gilbert, San Diego.

Miss Helen Ormsby, San Diego.

GREEN GARDEN

I know one who made a Garden.
"Not a blossom only green!"
"Cabbages and cauliflowers,
Peas and carrots, beets and beans!"
How she loved each wee tomato,
Gave each pod such tender care.
Lavished all her sweet affection
On the things she planted there!

Wearing nothing soft or pretty,
Only overalls and shirt;
Rosy cheeked, so small and solemn
Busy digging in the dirt.
Earnestly she works for hours.
"Only green!" The little elf
Doesn't know the sweetest flower
In the garden is herself!

By Dorothy Holder.

WHAT TO PLANT DURING APRIL

In California where flowers reach the height of floral perfection, we find each month throughout the year ideal for the planting of certain seeds, plants and bulbs. Undoubtedly you have your garden ready for planting at this time, in fact may have planted certain flowers already.

Seeds which can be sown in the open ground during April, include: Abronia, Acroclinium, Ageratum, Amaranthus, Arctotis Grandis, Asters, Balsam, Candytuft, Calendula, Calliopsis, Carnation, Celosia, Centaurea, Early Cosmos, Dahlia Seed, Delphinium, Geum, Gerbera, Gypsophila, Helichrysum, Hunnemannia, Kochia, Larkspur, Lobelia, African Marigold, Mathiola, Mignonette, Nicotiana, Nigella, Nasturtium, Oenothera, Painted Daisy, Petunia, Phlox Drumondii, Portulaca, Primula, Rhodanthe, Salvia, Salpiglossis, Scabiosa, Stocks, Sunflower, Valeriana, Verbena, Vine Seeds, Wallflower, Zinnia, Lawn Grasses.

The planting of Bulbs, include: Cannas, Dahlias, Gladiolus, and Tuberoses.

When buying seeds, discuss the matter with your Nurseryman or seed store and obtain a good grade of seeds. This will insure an excellent garden, with plenty of flowers and not disappointment. Be sure and follow instructions, since it is impossible for nature to perform wonders unless assisted.

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Spring is Here . . .

By SILAS B. OSBORN

The coming of spring even in California is heralded by the unfolding of leaf and fruit buds of deciduous plants and evergreens alike. The conifers and broadleaf evergreens dominating Californian gardens push forth a burst of new growth unequalled at any other season. Spring is in the air, the perfume of orange blossoms is wafted on the breeze. Almond, prune, peach and apricot orchards in full bloom adorn the landscape, creating an atmosphere of ethereal fantasy.

Under the benign influence of the season, erstwhile gardeners renew feverishly their seasonal tilling of the soil. What a pity such energy and enthusiasm so often is doomed to shrivel and estivate with the coming of the parching summer sun. Nothing is quite so regrettable as the unorganized, uneducated and hence wasted effort of this fruitless enthusiasm. The path of spring's triumphant parade must be prepared in autumn. Far too many uniformed gardeners plant spring blooming bulbs at blooming season, little realizing that the restless rootlets of the plants, through the cool fall and winter months have been storing up vitality essential to their spring blaze of glory. A bulb is the storehouse of a plant. The size and perfection of the bloom itself in many cases is determined by the cultural care the plant receives between blooming seasons. Embryo narcissus bloom spikes for the next season, for instance, are formed in the bulb shortly after the blooming period and can actually be clearly distinguished within two or three months after the plant has bloomed. Clearly this indicates the necessity for intelligent cultural care the year around and so it is to a greater or lesser degree with all plant life. Constant care, not feast and famine, is what pays dividends in the garden.

True, spring calls for a little extra effort in pruning, fertilizing, cultivating and planting. But if the successful horticulturist could be appropriately termed a genius, in gardening as well as in other things, the fruits of genius could be best defined as the cumulative result of persistence and hard work, intelligently applied with close attention to all the little details.

A recent English gardening book describes those with the knack of gardening as having "green fingers." "Green fingers" and gardening genius in our opinion are synonymous, but the green on the fingers always fades away when not in use from spring to spring.

DELPHINIUMS—BLUE ARISTOCRATS OF THE GARDEN

The present popularity of the Delphinium is due to the great improvement in qualities of size, form, color, and habit undreamed of a few years ago, and which position is held by few other plants. It is a plant capable of being grown by the most inexperienced gardener. It is perfectly hardy and content to be ignored the entire Winter and then reappear in the Spring with renewed vigor, a habit which commends it to all garden lovers.

Delphiniums may be planted in either early Fall or Spring, although planting is nearly always more successful if carried out in the Spring than it is in the Fall. However, if Fall planting is done while root action is still sufficiently active to enable the plants to establish themselves before Winter sets in, it will result in a finer display of spikes the following year. On no account should roots be disturbed while in a dormant state, for they will not begin activity until Spring and more often than not will die during the cold weather. They should be transplanted when growth has attained a height of two to three inches above the ground, for root action is then progressing rapidly, although it is quite safe to transplant when they are higher but the first year's bloom will not be as satisfactory.

Like every other plant, the Delphinium well repays good cultivation. A deep rich loam is the soil required—fairly heavy clay-like soil—a soil that does not become too dry in Summer, but is yet sufficiently well-drained to avoid excessive moisture in Winter. This should be thoroughly and deeply dug well in advance of the time to transplant. Into the lower spade depth must be incorporated a liberal supply of well-decomposed farmyard manure, avoiding like the plague, any that may have been polluted with wood shavings or moss litter. Either of these ingredients is deadly to plant life, and straw manure only must be used.

Full exposure to the sun is very important, making a south or southwest exposure particularly desirable, and protection from the north and northeast will be of advantage, where practicable.

Delphiniums should be well-spaced to allow for the full development of the spikes, and they should not be planted too deeply; just covering the plant crown is best.

When the spikes are growing rapidly, copious supplies of water should be given, if the weather is dry, and occasional waterings with weak liquid manure will greatly benefit the plants; or a handful of a good chemical fertilizer may be placed around each plant and well-watered in. This will increase the length of the spike and the size of the flowers, also improve their color.

When well-established the spikes should be thinned when three or four inches high, leaving only the strongest ones. It is necessary to see that the spikes are staked, using soft string or raffia for tying, to prevent injury to the stalk, and to protect them from damage by strong winds.

Fortunately, this plant is practically immune from insect pests, but as a precaution, I would suggest spraying every 10 days or two weeks with a weak solution of black leaf forty (one teaspoonful to one gallon of water); add to this one table-

(Continued on Page 12)

Planting and Growing of Dahlia Tubers . . .

By H. LODGE

Where should you plant your dahlias. In the average garden there is not much choice, and it is necessary to make the best of the available space. However, avoid planting near large trees, or on the north side of the house. Dahlias like the morning sun, and welcome shade during the mid-day heat, but this cannot always be given them except by erecting some sort of covering.

On my own place I have covered a large plot with lath, and this seems to be giving satisfaction, as some varieties which previously have been failures, are now growing successfully under lath.

So much for location, but what about soils, here again the grower has to use what is available on his or her lot, a light loamy soil is ideal to work, and with proper fertilization will give good results. If your soil is heavy it will be improved by the incorporation of ashes, lime, or gypsum vegetable matter, and by growing green crops and spading this in during early Spring. Your ground should be spaded about eight inches deep in Spring, although if you can turn it over to the depth of ten or twelve inches so much the better.

Regarding fertilization: for several reasons I used manures, but with different results, in fact I suffered losses through the burning of the fine feed roots coming in contact with the manure, especially in a dry winter and early spring, with insufficient rains to wash out the ammonia. Also manure breeds pests in the soils. A green clover crop spaded in will give you all the humus needed to keep soil broken up, and help retain moisture for the growing plants.

When planting dig a hole about five inches deep and eight to ten inches across, in heavy soils, four inches deep will be plenty. Put in two or three handfuls of peat, and mix thoroughly with the soil, a little bone meal at this time (also mixed in the soil) will help the plant when ready to bloom, as bone meal is slow acting.

Place your tuber flat with eye or sprout facing up, and about two or three inches away from the stake, which should be driven in at this time, to prevent breaking of roots. Fill in the hole with about three inches of dirt, completing the filling when plant is grown.

The ground should be sufficiently moist when tubers are planted to bring the plants out. To water the ground considerably after planting is liable to rot the tubers.

Should one or more fail to grow in a reasonable time, carefully take them out and look for the cause. It may be that the tuber is rotting owing to the application of too much water, if not too far gone cut away the rotted part, and dust with sulphur and replant.

Cutworms may cut back the young plant close to the ground. Search for the offender which is near the top, and the plant will send up new growth. To prevent cutworms injuring your plants place a collar around them, first making sure that no cutworm is inside the collar.

When young growth appears above ground a small handful of a well balanced fertilizer may be spread around and about six inches away from it, then raked in. Moderate fertilizing for dahlias is now being advocated by the leading dahlia growers. A second application of fertilizer should be given when the first flower buds appear, this also to be raked lightly in.

Cultivating should begin as soon as plants appear and carried out after every irrigation or sprinkling to keep the soil from baking. However, when plants are fully grown only very shallow cultivation should be given, as the small feed roots are at this period close to the surface and would be damaged by deep cultivation. It would be better at this stage to give a mulching and stop cultivation altogether.

When the young plants have grown three pairs of leaves pinch out the top, then immediately side shoots will begin to grow. This will give you a better shaped plant and from four to six stems for your first blooms. If you want large blooms permit the top buds on each of these stems or branches to remain, and pinch out all the side buds, leaving the last two for your next growth when you cut your first blooms. These should be cut just above the two side buds left on, these again will give you your second growth. Most amateur growers are afraid to cut back or prune their plants, and consequently get a large growth of side shoots with lots of small blooms, and a shorter blooming season.

Plants should be tied to stakes for support, to prevent winds from breaking the branches.

When watering dahlias. do not merely sprinkle but soak them, and wait until they need it again, the type of soil and drainage will decide how often this should be done.

The dahlias worst enemies during their early growth are thrip, and leafhoppers, these pests work on the under side of the young leaves and suck out the juices causing distortion, and preventing the growth of the plant. Two or three sprayings a week (when plants are young) with a good tobacco spray, taking care to thoroughly spray the under part of the leaves will keep the pests in control. The best time to spray is in the early morning, when they are so active, and are not able to get away so quick as they do when the sun has warmed them up. Aphis can be disposed of by the same spray used for thrip, also by clearing out the ants. Grasshoppers, also the small green spotted beetle will chew the petals of your dahlia blooms, and spoil them for exhibition. For this nuisance I have found hand picking in the early morning to be the most effective, as like his fellow pest the thrip, these small beetles are sluggish in the early morning.

Dahlia blooms should be cut late in the afternoon when the sun is

(Continued on Page 8)

Begonia Club Notes . . .

. . . *A Series of Letters From all Parts of the United States*

Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 4, 1936.

The cold water treatment for mealy bug is all that we use and our plants are free of pests of any kind. I have always understood that Pres. Carnot had an all green leaf, am I right? Do you give your B. Goegoensis any more sun than any rest of the begonias?

"Prof's" letter reminds me of an old gentleman I was speaking with this fall who has a nice collection of begonias, and he was so disappointed to see ours in bloom; he told me he never allows his to bloom, he is convinced that his foliage is much more beautiful because he does not. Bailey brings very forcibly to us that begonias have more to offer us in decorative foliage than beautiful flowers.

"Bill" I will whisper you an open secret about Compta to make it branch. Pinch out the new leaf in the sheath. Do this with all the new leaves in the sheaths and you will be pleased with the result. Strange to say, we grew them for three years without a bloom and this winter we had blooms on small cuttings. There is a new "gadget," or call it what you will, which registers the humidity in the atmosphere, relative to the temperature, and even in the greenhouse it is surprising how rapidly the begonias take up the moisture. Try a fine spray of water from an atomizer towards the plants each morning for a couple of weeks and see if there is any improvement. In and around Philadelphia, all semperflorens are known as "Wax plants" or "Wax begonias." You speak of portions of the leaves of begonias drying up like parchment paper. I have seen this and have been told by those who are supposed to know that it came from imperfections in the glass through which the sun shone. But for all that, I am not saying I believe it.

It is somewhat difficult to determine the difference between Dichtoma, Palmifolia and Lindleyana. I have a friendly family argument these days over Lindleyana and Palmifolia.

Tiny little leaflets have grown on the stem of the Paul Bruant we have had. When you speak of the "Red Calla," do you mean the first leaf the color of the Carmen semperflorens, and the next leaf red and white and the next leaf all white? That would be a thrill!

The Imperialis variety Maculata, Manicata aureo Cristata, Glaucophylla scandens, Lobata Varigata and Lindleyana, several varieties of Fruticosa seem to me the most beautiful just now.

Pacific Beach, Calif.,
Nov. 24, 1935

The cold water treatment for mealy bug would not be very good unless one could place something over the pot to keep the water off. One member suggested making an apron of oil cloth and tying over the top of pot so the excess water could run off and not soak into the soil. We know that to keep the pots of begonias too wet will result in a sour soil and do more harm than good. It is a good idea to put a layer of coarse charcoal in the bottom of the pots to keep the soil sweet. I think it better than to mix charcoal in with the soil as some do.

Annabelle is a fine begonia. (Howard & Smith seedling) a strong grower with spotted leaves and large bunches of rose pink flowers and a long season bloomer. Odorata rosea is another favorite of mine; the individual flowers are quite large and bi-color in pink and white. These canes are not attacked by wilt as the Haageana species often are. It has been suggested that mustard water applied around the roots will combat wilt, it will not injure the plant anyway and a good thing to try out. The spotted leaved semperflorens needs a name, so "Bess" suggests calling it B. Semperflorens Varigata. We have always called it "Bill's" varigated, as he was the first one in the club to grow it and introduce it. He seems to have found it growing in a country place.

The Rex pods are so apt to fall off before maturing, so I have been fastening celophane bags over the stems to catch them as they fall so as not to lose them. I find this method works out well on other seed pods when one desires to save a certain kind.

Some of the members report good success with growing begonias from seed and if sown when fresh the germination is encouraging. From some of the Superba seed, which is a seedling from Faureana-Palmata, several new forms have resulted. Some very beautiful with silvery markings between the green veins. One came with a dark green leaf and covered with small white dots and a red lining underneath which is a decided departure from the original plants. Ecquador has bloomed profusely this fall and has now its third bloom stalk and one more coming. Tho the leaves have all dropped, as they usually do in fall, they start out again in spring. It needs some feed then when the new growth begins and weak manure water is the quickest fertilizer unless one can repot in entirely new soil.

Those who delight in the unpronounceable Latin names of begonias will be happy when they can call the B. Acuminata, "**Aceris Fructu herba anomala.**" There is also a Mexican variety that rejoices in the simple name of "**Totoncaxoxo coyollin.** Also to find that the Ricinafolia might be known as B. Jatrophaefolia." Good exercise for the brain. No wonder one says, "Ho-hum.'" One member criticized the idea of placing double i's after a name on begonias such as Feastii, Rossii, etc., but that only indicated the name of the originator.

We would like to have some of the unknown begonias we have collected named in that manner if it

(Continued on Page 12)

Activities of Floral Associations and Garden Clubs

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

By Ada Perry

A high temperature is no respecter of Floral associations as members found out when Madame Akemi Togo was forced to default her engagement for the March meeting. The fore mentioned temperature confined her to her bed in Los Angeles. In carrying on without her, the association made the acquaintance of the T. D. Cockerells of Boulder, Colorado, who took the subject of sunflowers and made a merrily informative evening of the sunniest of flowers.

They told the story of making the red sunflower and it was so fascinating that there should be a boom in red sunflowers this year. Mrs. Cockerell saw a chestnut red butterfly that didn't fly away one day in 1910. She transplanted it in her garden where it acted like all orange sunflowers except that it had wine red pigment in its veins. The Staffords produced other sunflowers in the new color from the plant but they weren't quite satisfied with the chestnut red effect caused by the mixture of the orange and wine red colors in the petals.

"It's orange that does that," they deduced so they found a pale yellow variety and with its help got plants that showed pure wine red.

Miss Kate Sessions who is the association's star leading lady spoke at the meeting too and altogether every one had a much better time than little Madame Togo with her fever, which doesn't seem quite fair. However she is still expected at a future date. She has too much to offer flower lovers here to be given up.

March saw the flower tours gain momentum. Mr. Burpee's Chula Vista flower fields were visited and members enjoyed feasting their eyes on the nasturtium super-doubles on their growing grounds. Also the Wimmer, Monroe and Cook gardens were enjoyed on the same Chula Vista trip. Any one of those gardens would make a full tour.

Amy Strong will be hostess to the association the first Saturday in April at her unique home in Ramona. This occasion is certain to be extremely enjoyable. Tea will be served.

MISSION HILLS NURSERY

We have in Roses, Mary Hart, Carmelita, Matador, Alezane and others.

Also Three Colors in New Tree Roses.

Nasturtium and Poinsettia (New Double)

If your lawn needs attention, call us. Our service includes Reseeding, Fertilizing and general cleanup at once cent per square foot.

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CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION'S SPRING FLOWER SHOW

April 18th and 19th will find the fourteenth annual flower show, in progress at Coronado. The opening will take place Saturday afternoon at two o'clock, and will close Sunday afternoon at four p. m., at which time the auctioning of the flowers will take place, a very unique closing.

Several unusual displays are in store during the show. The children's classes in section "J" under the supervision of Mrs. Wilson Crosby and Mrs. Paul Wegeforth will include: "An arrangement of flowers in a bottle," "An arrangement of flowers in a vase or bowl," "A May-day basket, container made by exhibitor," and "A novelty, using any type of flower."

A very excellent and outstanding display of native wild flowers, cannot but help create considerable interest, since the gathering has required a special permit and the effort of four members of the Coronado Floral Association. The Botanical names, as well as the common names will be given, making such a display of unusual value to all.

Under the supervision of Mrs. Darwin Aldridge, one will find the most elegant display of "Shadow boxes, scenic picture boxes, and picture boxes."

Over one hundred classifications will take place, and while a number of commercial exhibitors will be there, it is for the sole purpose of educational interest only. This wonderful show is due to the efforts of the officers of the Coronado Floral Association and the assistance of members.

The officers of the Coronado Floral Association are:

(Continued on Page 7)

Mrs. Harold J. Peterson, President.

Mr. Harold Taylor, First Vice-President.

Mrs. Thomas E. Sharp, Second Vice-President.

Mrs. Armand Jessop, Third Vice-President.

Mrs. Darwin Aldridge, Fourth Vice-President.

Mrs. Van Sickle, Treasurer.

Miss Blanche Rogers, Secretary.

CHULA VISTA FLOWER SHOW

By Mrs. A. W. Darling

On April 18th at 2 p.m., the flower show of Chula Vista will open at the Women's Club House, G street West of 3rd avenue, and continuing through the 19th until 9 p.m. This will be the 15th consecutive year the flower lovers of Chula Vista have conducted this show. There has been a steady increase during all these years, in community spirit, and the show is considered one of the outstanding events of the year.

Each year new features are introduced aside from the competitive flower stakes. This year will find fascinating luncheon tables, kitchen window decoration, and many other attractive arrangements.

The Spanish colonial club house and its unusual patio is a charming setting for the flower show. An invitation is extended to all to visit the Chula Vista flower show. Admittance is entirely free.

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB

By Mrs. H. E. Hoffman

The Garden Club of Fallbrook, has a membership limited to forty active and five associate members. We limit our membership because we prefer to meet at the homes of members instead of in a hall or club house, because one of the objects of the club is to visit the gardens of the members. A small percentage of the members live in the town of Fallbrook, the others being spread out from ten miles to the north to five miles south of the town. This makes the gardens all the more interesting, as each one has a different problem in the natural topography of her land.

We hold two flower shows each year, one in the spring and one in the fall. Heretofore we have had the usual schedule, blue ribbons, classifications, etc., but this spring we are planning a show along different lines. We are having no classifications, but are inviting everyone who grows flowers to bring in arrangements, so placed as to make a beautiful and harmonious effect. In former shows we have found that often flowers which do not harmonize with each other have to be placed close together in the same division. We are also hoping that some who have hesitated to place their flowers in competition with others will be encouraged to exhibit them in this type of show. Our Spring Flower Show is to be held April 18 and 19, in the Women's Club House.

The Garden Club had charge of the decorating of the Women's Club House and grounds for the recent community play "A Night in Mexico," which was a very ambitious undertaking for such a small community.

One feature of our club, which may be of interest to other organizations, is our Good Cheer Fund. Our Good Cheer Treasurer takes up a collection, each meeting, the pennies we have in our purses. This she devotes to cards, flowers and other things which are sent or given to shut-ins, invalids or others in need.

Last year we did some roadside planting of wild flowers, part of which flourished and part were scraped off or burned with oil by the road department. We are planning to plant and maintain a live Christmas tree near the business part of the town. We have an exceedingly able and enthusiastic Conservation Chairman, who keeps us posted on what is being done along these lines all over the United States.

The Club meetings are held the last Thursday in each month. The officers of the Club are:

President, Mrs. Cleveland Hicks.

Vice-President, Mrs. A. B. Clemmens.

Recording Secretary, Mrs. H. M. Olson.

(Continued on Page 9)

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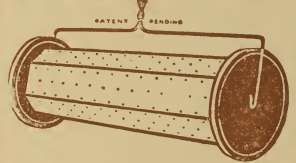

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My Garden . . .

By K. O. SESSIONS

Mr. Jerabek's excellent list of Acacias in the late California Garden makes us realize how valuable a flowering tree and shrub the acacia is for this section of California.

To keep the plants within bounds of size and fine condition of growth, it is very necessary for a good trimming to follow the flowering. If seed is desired reserve a few branches only for its development and then trim.

The Banksias in my home garden were recently photographed by Mr. Eric Walther of Golden Gate Park. The small foliaged one he names B. Verticellata, and the larger leafed sort I have known as Banksia Grandis. He says my plant is the first to have bloomed in California probably. Its flowers are a stiff spike at the end of the branch, three inches in diameter and 10 inches long, a dull pale yellow, but B. Verticellata is a good cheerful yellow, and its spikes are six inches long and about one and a half inches thick.

An immature bud of Grandis sent to Mr. Walther was of much interest to Mr. John McLaren, Superintendent of Golden Gate Park, as he was growing it five years ago. My plant is about six years old, and blossomed first two years ago. It is a very individual and attractive tall growing shrub.

An interesting small shrub began to bloom in my garden in January, and Mr. Walther has identified it as Hakea Multilineata. Bailey's dictionary records the fact that it was introduced to California by Mrs. Theodosia Shepherd of Ventura in 1899.

Its foliage is very rigid, leaves six to eight inches long and only quarter of an inch wide conspicuous with the many nerve lines that give it the specific name "Multilineata." The flower spikes are four inches long and a good strong pink color, grouped in threes along the main stems and larger branches. Its growth is very erect.

The hakeas number some ninety species in Australia, and only H. laurifolia, Saligna and Sunveoleus are in general cultivation in San Diego, and this Multilineata is the most colorful and promising as a smaller shrub.

Hakea pugioformis is too savage with its very spiny foliage to be desirable for cultivation. I have one plant that I shall discard.

OUR GARDEN "STEP-CHILD"

By M. S.

A strip of ground under our back steps was particularly irritating. It harbored little piles of rubbish blown around by the wind and in its moist shade nursed the weeds to continuous growth. The soil was heavy red clay so we dug away about six or eight inches off the top, and discarded it. Then we built a little wall of bricks, cementing them together for strength. For cement we used the average of three parts of sand and one of cement, moistened to a consistency that handled easily. Then we filled in the space to a depth of a foot with good soil, and planted a garden. We placed iris for a background, cinerarias in the center, and a border of violets in front. Now in place of ugliness, we have a spot of beauty and delight!

PLANTING AND GROWING OF DAHLIA TUBERS

(Continued from Page 4)

setting, and immediately put into deep water and left out all night. This I have found to be the best method for keeping the blooms for the shows. When arranging at the show I make a fresh cut, and place at once in the vase containing fresh water.

NATIONAL CITY FLOWER SHOW

April will find another Annual Flower Show, of many years standing, in progress. On April 21st the Oliverwood Club will hold their flower show at the Club House, which is located on 24th street, in National City.

One of the most interesting features will be the Garden contest.

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AN OLD SAYING

By C. T. Jerabek

"It is an ill wind that does not blow someone some good."

About two months since certain Exposition officials wanted the famous Avenue of Black Acacias dug out along the Prado in Balboa Park.

Much discussion and many arguments even between friends resulted. Finally a committee was selected consisting of Miss K. O. Sessions to represent the Floral Association, Mr. J. G. Morley the Park Dept., Mr. Geo. W. Marston the City, and Mr. Julius Wangenheim the Exposition company.

After much consideration, a tree or two was removed here and there along the Prado, from the East Gate to the California building.

Instead of allowing these to be cut for firewood, Mr. Morley had a better idea and had men put to work sawing them into three and one half foot lengths These were later put in the ground along the canyon road which borders the Aloe and Agave Garden, thereby preventing frequent parking of automobiles upon choice mesembryanthemuns.

And even now the trees that were defoliated will probably do as much or more good in their new location as they did in their former place.

ALSO SUCCULENT FED RABBITS

Without a doubt most people know what vitamins, A,B,C, and D mean. And have heard of especially prepared foods for dogs and cats, to say nothing about the scientific methods of feeding rats and guinea pigs.

You have also heard of corn or milk fed hogs and chickens, or have read on the menu of tom turkeys, suckling pigs, etc., but say folks, have you ever heard of succulent fed rabbits? Well I dare say you have not and probably never will again, for now at the Aloe and Agave Garden, a rabbit proof fence is being constructed around the beds most affected by these marauders, thereby saving the Aloes, agaves, yuccas, and mesembryanthemuns from future destruction. From the appearance of the garden recently, one would have thought that succulents must have been the chief diet of these pests.

ACTIVITIES OF FLORAL ASSOCIATIONS AND GARDEN CLUBS

(Continued from Page 9)

Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. H. E. Hoffman.

Treasurer, Mrs. Jessie Gill.

Treasurer Good Cheer Fund, Mrs. Wallace Colbert.

Parliamentarian, Mrs. R. P. McGhan.

Club Hostess, Mrs. J. D. Guliher.

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

By C. M. KELLY

The California Begonia Society was organized a little over two years ago as a means of increasing interest and mutual knowledge in the raising of beautiful begonias and kindred plants.

At a recent meeting at Mr. and Mrs. Alfred D. Robinson's Rosecroft Garden, Point Loma, San Diego, California, the society decided to change its name to the American Begonia Society. That name has now been copyrighted.

A meeting is held on the first Wednesday of each month during the winter at members' homes, and visits are made to interesting gardens on one or more Sunday afternoons each month during the summer.

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TOMORROW

By W. H. H.

"When will tomorrow come?" asks every child, looking forward impatiently to pleasures promised for tomorrow.

"When will tomorrow come?" Aren't we all, children that we are, asking that same question? Tomorrow is always a brighter day. Today is stern reality, but tomorrow—magic word—holds hope of happier things.

Sometimes we get pretty discouraged with today. We struggle along, tired and blue and disgruntled, scolding and muttering against whatever it is that holds us back from tomorrow. Forgetting that unlike things cannot be compared, we sit down in futile self-pity to contrast our disappointments against our neighbors' or our relatives' good luck—yet who knows, if we were honest and straightforward in our comparisons, we might find our list of ills shorter and our list of blessings longer than the envied neighbor's!

Luckily for the world it is almost impossible for us human beings to remain gloomy for any length of time—particularly when it is April, blue and pink and gold April, in the West! After all, there is always tomorrow, isn't there? From the time the sun, reaching up strong, gleaming fingers, pulls himself up beaming over the eastern mountains, until he sinks, tired and spent, into a featherbed of gray fog over the Pacific, tomorrow will be a new day—a brand new day, a grand new day, no matter what grief or stress it may bring to any one of us. And maybe, maybe, it might bring something better than today or yesterday brought us!

That is what keeps us going on, isn't it? Going on in our work, in our relationships with other persons, in life itself. We might be tempted to say "What's the use?" and quit right now—but what about tomorrow? Let's see what it looks like before we throw up our job, or our business, or our home, or our marriage, or our hold on life. No matter how staid and practical and prosaic we may be, we all have some gambling instincts.

You Can Grow Orchids in Your Own Garden . . .

By N. L.

The orchid—aristocrat of flowers—has been looked upon as being available only to those who have plenty of money for buying the cut flowers, or for those fortunate few who possess greenhouses.

There are, however, hundreds of orchids which can be grown by the amateur in his rock garden, in frames with his seedling cactus, or in the lath house where he grows his semi-hardy plants and cuttings. These species may not have the size and grandeur of the orchids seen in florist shop windows, but they have coloring and shapes that you will find nowhere else in the entire vegetable kingdom. This article is being written for the express purpose of proving that the growing of orchids by the average gardener is a hobby that is fascinating, yet inexpensive.

The most hardy and easiest to handle of these hardy orchids are the temperate Lady Slipper Orchids: **Cypripedium acaule,** the red Lady Slipper, **Cypripedium pubescens,** the yellow Lady Slipper, large blush white. These Cypripediums are perfectly hardy and will remain in the ground all the year round, needing only the attention given as mentioned later in this article. They are grown best from corms or underground rhizomes. They can be obtained in the spring or fall from orchid growers who carry a complete line of the various genii.

When the plants arrive (if purchased in the spring) they will be in a dormant condition, but should never be really shrivelled. In the fall they will have a number of broad lanceolate leaves fairly thick and partially transparent.

When ordering, one should at the same time make a point of selecting the growing place. This should be at a low spot in the rock garden where there is plenty of moisture, but no stagnation, allowing for drainage to a lower point close at hand. It should not be exposed to the sun for more than two hours of the day and this period should be in the forenoon. The soil condition should also be looked into. This is of the utmost importance, and if you are not sure that the soil at the spot selected is suitable, it would be best to dig it out to a depth of nine inches and replace with a mixture made up as follows: At the bottom should be placed a three-inch layer of coarse gravel. Then the cavity should be filled with soil mixed thoroughly and consisting of one part fibrous peat, one part leaf soil, one part sand, and one part nice light loam that has been dug from a pasture where cows (never sheep) have been pastured. When placing the soil in position see that the coarsest pieces are placed over the gravel to keep the finer particles from being washed into the drainage, thus choking it.

When the plant roots arrive, always look them over to see that you are not importing any insect or fungus into your garden. If not certain, soak them for a quarter of an hour in water that is of the same temperature as the soil in which they are to be planted. No form of disinfectant should be used as this is likely to destroy the symbiotic organisms that are associated with all orchd rooting systems.

Distance between plants is another point to be considered. Very few orchids require an unlimited area to grow in. Therefore, it is best to

(Continued on Page 12)

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Question Box . . .

By R. R. McLEAN

. . . Bermuda Grass in Gravel Walks

QUESTION: I have re-set some calla lily bulbs, with some of the old leaves still attached. Should these leaves be cut off or allowed to grow?

MRS. C.

ANSWER: It is not a very good time to take up callas; four or five months from now would have been better. But since you have, the old leaves should be cut away and new ones allowed to start as the bulbs become "set" in the ground.

QUESTION: I have an acacia tree, baileyana, I believe it is called, the ruffled variety, which is dropping its foliage, and would like to know if you can advise me some effective means of controlling this trouble. There are no signs of any insects on it and it appears to be some kind of a fungus or scale disease. It bloomed in January and looked perfectly healthy up until just recently when it began to lose its leaves from the limbs beginning at the trunk joint. Also please advise me what is the most effective means of combatting caterpillars or cut worms which are infesting my hibiscus and roses.

W. H. C.

ANSWERs Insects and fungous diseases are not at all common on acacias and these factors can generally be counted out when considering acacia troubles. Under some circumstances certain fungous troubles appear on acacias, it is true, but they are nearly always secondary and follow some physiological disturbance due to soil conditions and root diseases. The leaf drop is therefore quite probably the result of either excess or lack of water, or to root disease or to poisoning. Illuminating gas leaking through the soil is one prolific cause of leaf drop on many of our city street trees. Acacia and pepper trees are perhaps more susceptible to gas poisoning than are many others. Another trouble sometimes found on acacias is crown gall, a bacterial disease affecting the crown just at or below the soil surface and on the roots. Crown gall is progressive in its action and when found on susceptible hosts will increase to such an extent that the affected plant finally dies.

QUESTION: I have been trying to grow Camellias but without much success. The shrubs grow so slowly and the buds blast. Can you offer any suggestions as to treatment?

MRS. W.

ANSWER: This complaint with reference to the blasting of buds and leaves of camellias as well as concerning their slow-growing habit, is general in Southern California, at least. Our atmosphere is rather dry for the best development of this beautiful plant although some growers seem to have considerable success with them. Single varieties are less apt to blast than the double, although the latter are the most popular nevertheless.

The only suggestion that can be made to those who would grow them is to quote their requirements as given by an authority: "Camellias like a warm, moist climate and a well drained soil that has a good water supply . . . In planting camellias very cool, drafty situations are to be avoided. A camellia plant should never be permitted to suffer for moisture. A fertile soil is required and enough organic matter should be added each year to keep the camellia in a vigorous condition. Shading the blooms a little during the blooming period may help to prevent sunburn. Blasting is apt to result if the petals or opening buds are wetted. A fungus trouble also attacks the flowers at times and may be discouraged by avoiding wetting, especially overnight."

QUESTION: Is there any remedy one can use to kill water bugs, or I presume they are known as sow-bugs? There are so many around the plants that I am quite sure they are destroying them. They are numerous in the strawberry bed; also will they eat the fruit?

M. J. L.

ANSWER: Although sowbugs are commonly found in damp places, under boards, rubbish, etc., and their principal food is undoubtedly decaying vegetation, they probably do some damage to plants at times and to such

(Continued on Page 12)

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ORCHIDS IN YOUR OWN GARDEN

(Continued from Page 10)

plant them close together, burying the rhizomes or underground stems two inches below the surface, seeing that the soil is worked well around them and touching every part. The soil should be moderately dry when planting and only a light sprinkling allowed until the new growths begin to show above ground. The area can be kept from getting too wet by placing a bell glass or water tight box on stones over the plants. Do not put these covers close to the ground as the plants require air at all times. As soon as the new growths appear, the covers can be taken off and the plants allowed to receive the natural rain and weather conditions existing in the location.

Watering does not need special care, but during the late spring, all through the summer and early fall, they must not become either parched or saturated. A good test for the soil is to take a small quantity in the palm of the hand. Squeeze it tightly. If it crumbles and falls apart, it is too dry. If it binds together and moisture comes out on the hand, it is too wet. The ideal growing condition is a happy medium between these two.

Fertilizers should be used with great caution. From practical experience, I have found that lumps of dried cow manure the size of walnuts can safely be inserted, four around each plant, say once in May and once in August.

Winter care consists in seeing that they are kept free from decaying leaves and that water does not remain around the planting. In the spring, cultivate the surface of the soil with a hand fork and add a top dressing of the mixture suggested for their planting.

If these few simple remarks are followed, you will have something growing that will not only interest you yourself, but that your garden-conscious friends will find more fascinating than the majority of uncommon subjects.

BEGONIA CLUB NOTES

(Continued from Page 5)

were possible. It would give us an inkling to their origination.

I note that B. Rossii, which has leaves larger than the Rubras, has turned an autumn color since the cold weather. In summer they are usually plain green, but the cold turns them into a veritable glory of reds and brown. For a description of Pres. Carnot we have one that the edge of the leaf is bordered red, otherwise much the same as C. Lucerne. Not so tall a grower as Lucerne and flowers similar. Yosemite is another cane similar to C. Lucerne, what is the distinguishing mark? One has to be pretty well acquainted with this class to distinguish which is which at a glance. I think the best white is the Superba Kenzii, a tall cane seedling of Faurena-Palmata. The bloom clusters are as large as C. Lucerne and a pure white in color; flowers are also similar in shape. Is a fall bloomer which holds to the flowers all thru the winter. The buds are tinted with pink at the base of the seed caps and disappear as the flower ages. The other white canes, are Shasta an all year bloomer but small clusters, and Improved Decorus which carries its small clusters in the leaf axles, and is an all year bloomer which is liked muchly.

I find no trouble in growing Goegoensis and it blooms throughout the year with dainty pink flower clusters. I protect it in the lath house with a glass cover.

"Lita."

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QUESTION BOX

(Continued from Page 11)

fruit as strawberries, lying on the ground. These pests are attracted to sweetened baits and will readily take a poisoned mash of bran, paris green, molasses and water. Mix one pound of wheat bran and one ounce of paris green together well and moisten with 2 tablespoonfuls of black strap diluted in one pint of water. Sow this bait broadcast throughout the garden or place small portions under boards in damp places or under plants that are being injured. The bran mash should not be coarse but scattered as finely as possible in order not to attract birds, poultry, other animals, etc.

QUESTION: I have a gravelled walk in which Bermuda grass persists in growing. Would like to know of something to use to kill it out.

MISS S. L.

ANSWER: One of the simplest things to use is common salt. A cheap crude salt can be obtained and made into a heavy brine with water. An occasional sprinkling with this brine will certainly keep weeds and grass down. If you have plants closely bordering the walk you may find the brine will injure them also, particularly if their roots grow under the walk near the surface, and large quantities are used. A light sprinkling of brine now and then may be used with caution in such cases, keeping grass down without heavily impregnating the soil.

Sodium arsenite, 1 pound to 10 to 25 gallons of water, is a very effective plant poison, but due to its poisonous properties must be handled with considerable care. It will also if used in any quantity injure the roots of border plants with which it comes in contact.

DELPHINIUM

(Continued from Page 3)

spoonful of bordeaux mixture. This will keep the plants free from insects and black spot.

It may be said of the Delphinium that no other flower has the stateliness and grace, and gives such a strong tone of blue to the garden, as the Delphinium in all its varying shades from white to dark-purple.

Dewey Kelly

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